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PAGE 1A

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FILE ONLY

## State Dept. fires aide who leaked cable to press

By Stephens Broening  
Washington Bureau of The Sun

WASHINGTON — In a step to stanch what the secretary of state calls a "gusher" of government leaks, the State Department announced yesterday the firing of an official who had disclosed classified information to the press.

Spokesman Charles Redman said the leak "involved matters related to our diplomatic relations. It did not involve defense secrets." He would not reveal the name of the offender or the story he said had been leaked.

Later, administration officials said the man fired was Spencer C. Warren, a speech-writer on Secretary of State George P. Shultz's policy planning staff. Mr. Warren was not immediately available for comment.

The dismissal followed an internal State Department investigation into a leak last month of a diplomatic cable from Frank Ortiz, U.S. ambassador to Argentina. In the cable to the State Department, the ambassador reportedly complained that

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., and other members of a traveling congressional delegation had urged Argentine political leaders to condemn Reagan administration policies in Central America.

In the past, Mr. Redman said, officials have been fired for leaks. But diplomats and reporters could recall no previous case where such a dismissal had been made public. Mr. Redman also said he knew of none.

The action yesterday followed by less than 48 hours a statement by Mr. Shultz that "as far as our government is concerned, it's a gusher. It's disgusting the way stuff leaks out, and we've got to find the people who are doing it and fire them."

It appeared to some officials that the public announcement of the firing was intended to chill relations between diplomats and reporters.

"The point to be made" by the announcement, Mr. Redman said, "is that he [the dismissed official] made an unauthorized disclosure of classified information, and the department intends to deal strictly with those kinds of unauthorized disclosures."

Mr. Redman said the official admitted the leak and apologized to the secretary of state for it. He also said the departing official did not take a lie detector test.

Last month a Defense Department official, Michael E. Pillsbury, who was under suspicion for disclosing classified information to the press, was fired after he failed a polygraph test, Pentagon officials said.